PROJECT TITLE : RECONSTITUTED TOBACCO

PERIOD COVERED : MARCH 20 - APRIL 16 1981

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Refiner gaskets

In mid-year 1980 the problem of how to extend the lifetime of the refiner gaskets was studied.
During the first week of April, longer gaskets were built in with modified gasket-supports. Up till now, the new joints have proved to be satisfactory.

Steel belt

A deformation of the steel belt was again observed. In the middle of the belt a convexity of a few milimeters was measured. The last re-flattening operation was carried out on November 4 1980. Sandvik, the steel belt supplier, was contacted. According to Sandvik, it is impossible to re-flatten the steel again.
It is planned to change the steel belt during the week of May 4 - May 8.

Dust for Monique/RCB production (1)

At the present time, all the dust obtained in Onnens is sieved in two stages: firstly it is passed through a 80-mesh sieve and secondly through a 100-mesh sieve. Dust >80 mesh is sent to Le Mans, dust <100 mesh is thrown away. For the Monique/RCB production <80 mesh, >100 mesh dust is used.
Due to the reduced cigarette production in Serrières, our dust stock is decreasing rapidly. A trial was carried out with 140-mesh instead of 100-mesh sieves in order to reduce the dust part that is thrown away.

Dust	2 Sieve stages 80 and 100 meshes (current)	2 Sieve stages 80 and 140 meshes (trial)
>80 mesh sent to Le Mans	65.8 %	65.6 %
<80 mesh, >100 mesh for Monique/RCB production	22.6 %	28.2 %
Dust thrown away	11.6 %	6.2 %

Table 1: Comparison of dust sieved with different mesh sizes

Dust samples were taken for SiO_2 analyses.
A decision to use the 140-mesh sieves or not will be taken once the SiO_2 results have been obtained.

REFERENCE

1. Karbacher-P "Essai de tamisage avec des tamis 140 mesh" (April 16 1981)

KPA/sde/APRIL 23 1981